CDPM TL921

International Secretariat
Plantin en Moretuslei 174
B-2018 Antwerp
Belgium
Tel.: (03) 235-3640

UN Representative
777 UN Plaza # 4A-2
New York, N.Y. 10017
U.S.A.
Tel.: (212) 687-5340

CDPM
DOCUMENTAÇÃO
7190

pax christi

international catholic peace movement

PREPARED BY PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC PEACE MOVEMENT FOR THE UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION REGIONAL SEMINAR IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, 19-21 JUNE, 1990

Presented by Sister Mary Beth Reissen, UN Representative, New York

Pax Christi International Catholic Peace Movement welcomes this opportunity to particicipate in this important and timely seminar in commemoration of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Pax Christi, founded in the aftermath of World War II in France, is an organization of Roman Catholics with an avowed purpose to work for peace for all humankind, always witnessing to the peace of Christ. Pax Christi's membership presently numbers some 100,000 persons, with 19 national sections and headquarters in Antwerp, Belgium.

At the heart of Pax Christi's work for peace is the recognition of human dignity, the dignity of each person as image and child of God. Such is the raison d'etre for Pax Christi's efforts in the promotion of human rights. Pax Christi is opposed to all forms of discrimination and to all forms of violent rivalries.

For Pax Christi the right to self-determination is both a fundamental human right and an essential prerequisite for the full enjoyment of all other human rights. The right to self-determination belongs to a people and to each individual member of that people. Thus, in reality, the right to self-determination cannot be defined only in terms of group rights, for it is also the fundamental right of individuals.

The violation of the right to self-determination is a crime under international law (H. Gros-Espeill, UN Special Rapporteur of Self-determination, Report on the Right of Self-determination, para. 80). States are not only under legal obligation to recognize the right of peoples to self-determination but also to respect,

promote and assist peoples in its realization. This obligation is contained in the first articles of both International Covenants on Human Rights, in pronouncements of the International Court of Justice and in numerous United Nations resolutions.

This year has seen progress in the implmentation of the right to self-determination of peoples. With the help of the United Nations, the people of Namibia have realized that right. Many peoples of Eastern Europe have reclaimed their right to self-determination. Pax Christi, which has devoted must effort to promoting the right of the peoples of Southern Africa and Eastern Europe to determine their own destiny, is very pleased with these developments and with the promise of improvements in South Africa.

While positive changes are taking place in some parts of the world, human rights, in particular the right to self-determination, are still being violated by too many governments. East Timor, a small island territory which shares a boundary with Indonesia, is a grave example of this violation of the right to self-determination.

Since the invasion of East Timor by Indonesia in December, 1975, Pax Christi has never ceased calling on UN Human Rights bodies to stop the massacres in East Timor. Pax Christi views the more than 100,000 deaths in East Timor indicative of genocide. Last month we received word from the Australian Council for Overseas Aid that massacres have occurred since April in several villages in the south-western districts of Ainaro and Bobonaro.

Pax Christi deplores the continuing gross violations of human rights in East Timor, including summary executions, disappearances of many who have been taken prisoners, arbitrary detention, torture, forced sterilization. Pax Christi calls for: the immediate cessation of all human rights violations in East Timor; the end of Indonesian military operations in East Timor (we have received word of a new operation in March); the withdrawal of Indonesian populations sent to East Timor; the opening of the entire territory to humanitarian assistance organizations and international human rights organizations.

Pax Christi continues to petition the Special Committee concerning East Timor. Pax Christi makes its own the appeal of Bishop Filipe X. Belo, SDB, Apostolic Administrator of Dili, to the UN Secretary General on February 6, 1989. Bishop Belo has requested that a referendum be conducted in East Timor under United Nations auspices. (Bishop Belo's letter to the UN Secretary General is attached.) Pax Christi views Bishop Belo's appeal, not as being motivated by personal or sectarian interests, but as embodying the wishes of the people as a whole.

Pax Christi urges the Special Committee to dispatch a visiting mission to East Timor to meet with Bishop Belo and other East Timorese leaders "to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the population of this Territory to exercise their right to self-determination and independence." Resolution UNGA 44/101, Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples ,(Paragraph 11 (d).

Furthermore, Pax Christi expresses grave concern over the personal safety of Bishop Belo. There is an urgent need to guarantee freedom of expression for the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor and to end intimidation.

Regarding UNGA Resolution 44/102, Dissemination of Information on Decolonization, Pax Christi recommends that a Fact Sheet on East Timor be prepared. This Fact Sheet will be vital in making the general public aware of the East Timor situation. The names and summary statements of the Petitioners to the Special Committee on the subject of East Timor are recommended for inclusion in the Fact Sheet. It is noted that the Decolonization Series, Item Number 7, August, 1976, Issue of East Timor needs updating and republication. It would also be useful for a representative from the Special Committee to brief the NGO community at UN Headquarters during a regular Thursday UN Department of Public Information Briefing on the situation in East Timor.

Verbatim letter dated 6 February 1989 from the Apostolic Administrator of Dili Addressed to the UN Secretary-General

I take the liberty of writing you to let you know that the process of decolonization of Portuguese Timor has not yet been resolved by the United Nations, a fact that should not be forgotten. We, the people of Timor, believe that we should be consulted about the destiny of our homeland. That is why, as the one responsible for the Catholic Church, and as a citizen of Timor, I ask you through this letter to initiate in Timor a more normal and democratic process of decolonization that is achieved by means of a referendum. The people of Timor must be consulted about its future through a plebiscite. Up to now, the people have yet to be consulted. Others speak in the people's name: Indonesia declares that the people of Timor have already chosen integration, but the people of Timor have never said so; Portugal wishes that time will take care of this problem. Meanwhile, we are dying as a people and as a nation.

You are a democrat and a friend of human rights. Therefore, do demonstrate through deeds the respect for the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the United Nations which gives to all peoples on this planet the right to choose their own destiny in a free, conscientious and responsible manner.

There is not a more democratic way to ascertain the supreme will of the Timorese people than through a referendum promoted by the United Nations.

I thank you for all your sympathy for the people of Timor.

(Signed) Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, SDB
Titular Bishop of Lorium
Apostolic Administrator of Dili

* UN Document: A/AC.109/991 p.2

Mr. Chairman, concerning Caribbean Non-Self Governing Territories, we regret the increasing militarization of the Caribbean region as a whole. We bring to your attention the following message from Pax Christi of Puerto Rico:

> The end of the Cold War in Europe has had little impact on the geopolitics of the Caribbean. The metropolitan powers continue exercising the same powers, and maintaining the same military posture, as before this new era of warming relations between the superpowers.
>
> The United States Navy gives no sign of reducing its activities neither at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba not at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico. Moreover, U.S. Congressmen conducting public hearings on a proposed plebiscite to determine Puerto Rico's political status have insisted that the U.S. Navy will continue its operations at Roosevelt Roads no matter what political status Puerto Rico's inhabitants choose. The Puerto Rican Independence Party fears it will have no alternative but to negotiate an agreement with the Pentagon.
>
> The continued presence of the Roosevelt Roads base and other U.S. military facilities in Puerto Rico, pose a continuing threat to Caribbean tranquility. They also represent a barrier to the natural development of an autonomous and integrated Caribbean. Specifically, as regards Puerto Rico, the U.S. military presence is not conducive, psychologically, to a proper climate for an election that will determine the island's future relationship with Wastington.
>
> Pax Christi of Puerto Rico endorses the goal of a Caribbean free of military installations, free of foreign interventions and free to pursue its own economic, social and political destiny.

Jose M. Barcelo, President
Pax Christi of Puerto Rico

Harold J. Lidin, Vice-President
Pax Christi of Puerto Rico

Finally, recalling Pax Christi International's participation as a Non-Governmental Organization at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, we request the Special Committee to undertake a comprehensive study and inquiry concerning the situation in each Non-Self Governing Territory and Trusteeship Territory with regard to the adherence to Resolution III of Annex I of the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

RESOLUTION III

The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,
Having regard to the Convention on the Law of the Sea,
Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 73,
1. *Declares* that:

(a) In the case of a territory whose people have not attained full independence or other self-governing status recognized by the United Nations, or a territory under colonial domination, provisions concerning rights and interests under the Convention shall be implemented for the benefit of the people of the territory with a view to promoting their well-being and development.

(b) Where a dispute exists between States over the sovereignty of a territory to which this resolution applies, in respect of which the United Nations has recommended specific means of settlement, there shall be consultations between the parties to that dispute regarding the exercise of the rights referred to in subparagraph (a). In such consultations the interests of the people of the territory concerned shall be a fundamental consideration. Any exercise of those rights shall take into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and shall be without prejudice to the position of any party to the dispute. The States concerned shall make every effort to enter into provisional arrangements of a practical nature and shall not jeopardize or hamper the reaching of a final settlement of the dispute.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring this resolution to the attention of all Members of the United Nations and the other participants in the Conference, as well as the principal organs of the United Nations, and to request their compliance with it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.